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M. PridgesINFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In the interest of full disclosure, the following items are herewith identified in Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the same is hereby provided, for the convenience of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first official action.

U.S. PATENTS

- (AA) U.S. Patent No. 4,385,967, Joseph M. Brady, et al, issued May 31, 1983.
See German Patent No. 32 36 545 C3, (AQ) below.
- (AB) U.S. Patent No. 4,755,271, Daniel Hosten, issued July 5, 1988.
- (AC) U.S. Patent No. 4,767,146, Peter Hasse, issued August 30, 1988.
- (AD) U.S. Patent No. 4,776,939, Horst Blasing, et al, issued October 11, 1988.
See also German Patent No. 36 24 481 A1 (AR) below.
- (AE) U.S. Patent No. 4,879,007, Chi W. Wong, issued November 7, 1989.

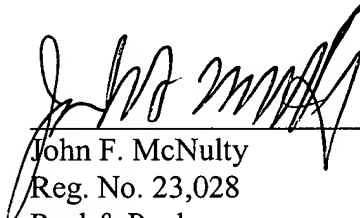
- (AF) **U.S. Patent No. 5,391,276**, Kurt Astor et al, issued February 21, 1995.
- (AG) **U.S. Patent No. 5,401,370**, Rudolf Kauper, et al, issued March 28, 1995.
See also German Patent No. 40 05 209 C2, (AS) below.

FOREIGN PATENTS

- (AL) **German Patent No. 25 12 762**, Walter Schmitt et al, dated September 30, 1976. See page 2, first full paragraph of the instant application.
- (AM) **German Patent No. 36 45 319**, Horst Blasing et al, dated January 28, 1988. See page 2, last paragraph of the instant application.
- (AN) **International Application PCT/CA97/00350, Publication No. WO 97/46740**, Howard Brown, et al, dated May 23, 1997.
- (AO) **International Application PCT/DE98/3477, Publication No. WO 99/29931**, Gunther Strecker, dated November 25, 1998.
- (AP) **International Application PCT/EP97/01544, Publication No. WO 97/37062**, Rolf Schroder et al, dated March 26, 1997. See page 2, third paragraph of the instant application.
- (AQ) **German Patent No. 32 36 545 C3**, Joseph M. Brady, dated May 5, 1983.
See also U.S. Patent No. 4,385,967, (AA) above.
- (AR) **German Patent No. 36 24 481 A1**, Horst Blasing et al, dated January 28, 1988. See U.S. Patent No. 4,776,939 (AD) above.
- (AS) **German Patent No. 40 05 209 C2**, Rudolf Kauper, et al, dated August 22, 1991. See U.S. Patent No. 5,401,370 (AG) above.
- (AT) **European Patent Application No. 0 254 962**, Daniel Hosten, dated July 15, 1987. Contact terminals are described which are provided for dry contacting. To this end, the contact terminals are shielded from the ingress of the electrolyte solution by means of a seal lying against the items to be treated. This invention also mentioned that the remaining regions of the contact terminals, which do not serve to provide contact, are coated with plastics material to protect them against undesired metal deposition. Undesired deposits on the contact terminals are removed by chemical and/or mechanical cleaning during the return travel of the terminals. Sealing of the cathode terminals, by a seal lying under spring pressure against the items to be treated, leads to disadvantages, because printed circuit boards are always sharp-edged.
- (AU) **European Patent No. 0 578 699 B1**, Daniel Hosten, dated April 9, 1992.

This document relates to a plating device which comprises wheels as contacting elements for the printed circuit boards which are pressed from below and above on to the surfaces of the conveyed circuit boards. These contacting elements are designated K_1 , K_{21} , K_{22} , and K_3 . There are other wheels designated with Ar. These wheels serve to press the circuit board against the contacting elements. Further there are means for screening of deplating regions the means for screening off being designated As_{1m} As_{21} , As_{22} , and As_3 and the depleting reagents being designated with EK_1 , EK_{21} , EK_{22} , and EK_3 . The contacting elements serve to fee electrical current to the circuit boards which is supplied by a plating current source GS_1 . The wheels are also plated during the plating process. Therefore, metal plated on the wheels must be removed. This is performed by means of an auxiliary cathode H_1 , the current being fed by means of deplating current sources ES_1 .

Respectfully submitted,



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